

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed May 18, 2007. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 11-23 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 11-23 stand rejected. Claims 6, 7, and 10 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 14, and 23 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 13-17, and 19-23 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. 1,083,599 filed by Georg Fromme et al. ("*Fromme*"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits *Fromme* does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art as anticipatory by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected Claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present Claims.

Even though Applicant believes that the Examiner's interpretation of the current claims is unreasonable, Applicant amended the independent claims to distinguish them from *Fromme*. *Fromme* does not disclose a connecting element that rests on the side faces of two adjacent substrates. According to *Fromme* a connecting element rests on a top surface and, thus, provides for a different function that the connecting elements as defined in the claims.

With respect to Claim 23, this claim includes the limitation of "*wherein the connecting regions are designed to prevent a deformation of one substrate region to continue to an adjacent substrate region.*" The Examiner identified the substrate 20 as a possible

connecting region. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The substrate according to *Fromme* has no design features that would prevent a deformation of one substrate region to continue to an adjacent substrate region.

Thus the independent Claims 1, 14, and 23 are not anticipated by *Fromme*. Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent Claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11-13, and 15-22 are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claim to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicant reserves the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4, 5, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fromme* as applied to Claims 1, 2, and 14 above, and further in view of Japanese Publication JP 2001-118987 filed by Naruse Mikio ("*Mikio*"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art combinations, even if proper, which Applicant does not concede, does not render the claimed embodiment of the invention obvious.

Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent Claims 4, 5, 11, and 18 are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claims to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicant reserves the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

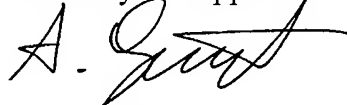
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney, Andreas H. Grubert at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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